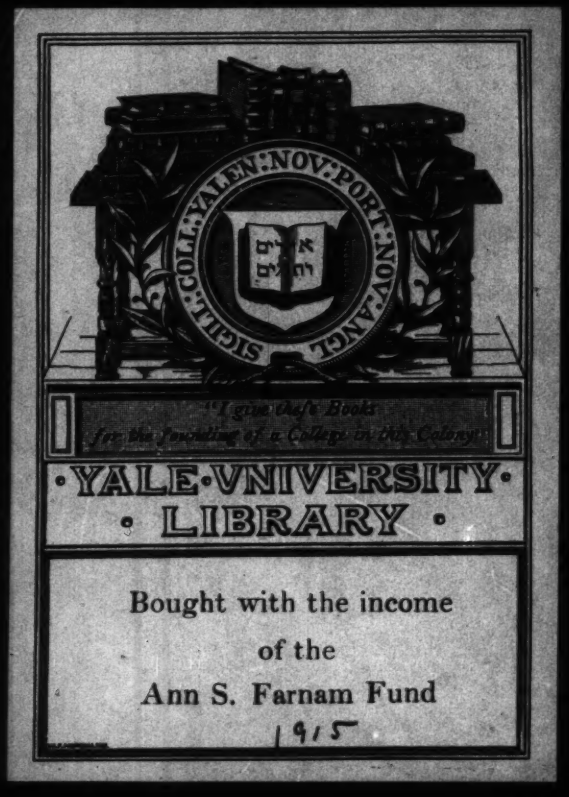
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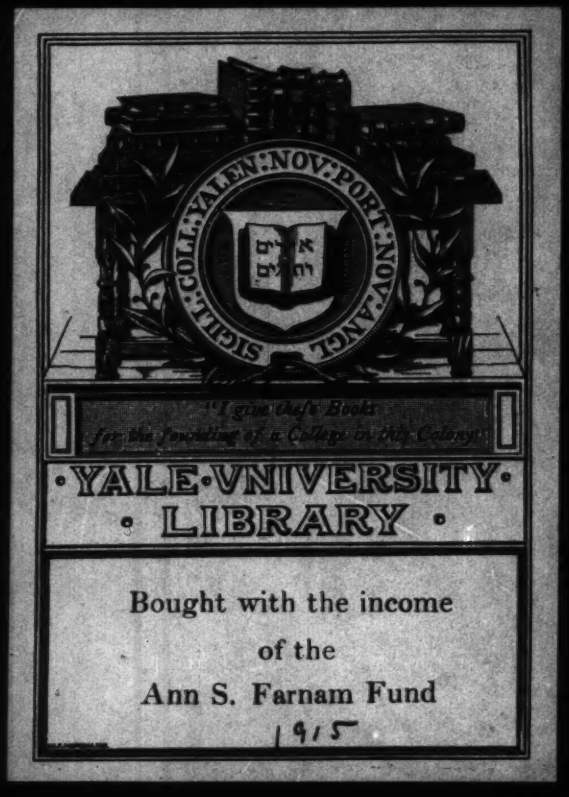
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SPEECH

[Shaftesbury, A. 1. C.] 1st Earl of

Lately Made by a

Noble PEER

OF THE

REALM.

My Lord,

IN this great Debate concerning the King's Speech, *the sad State and Condition we are in*, and the Remedies thereof; I have Offered You my Opinion, and many Lords have spoken admirable well to it, with great Freedom and Plainness, as the Case requires.

Give me leave to offer you some few words, in answer to two or three of my Lords of the Earls Bench, that have maintained the contrary Opinion.

My Lord, near me, hath told your Lordships, that the President of *Hen.* the 4. that I offered to you (who was a Wise and Magnanimous Prince; and yet upon the Address of his Parliament, *put away a great part of his Family and Councils at one time,*) is no proper instance, because he was an Usurper, had an ill Title, and was bound to please the People.

My Lords, I meddle not with his Title, I am sure our King hath a very undoubted one; But this My Lord must allow, that that wise Prince having *need of the People*, knew no better way to please them, and to create a good intelligence between them and him, than to put away those from Court and Council that were unacceptable to them.

If our King hath the same Necessity to please the People, (though for other Reasons than want of a Title;) Yet I am sure the President holds, that a Wise Prince, when he hath need of his People, will rather *part with his Family and Counsellors, than displease them.*

My Lords, This Noble Lord near me, hath found fault with that President, that he supposes I offered your Lordships concerning the Chergeable Ladies at Court; But I remember no such thing, I said; but if I must speak of them, I shall say as the Prophet did to King *Saul; What means the bleating of this kind of Cattel?* And I hope the King will make me the same answer, *that he reserves them for Sacrifice, and means to deliver them up to please his People.* For there must be, (*in plain* English) My Lords, a *change*; We must neither have *Popish* Wife, nor *Popish* Favourite, nor *Popish* Mistris, nor *Popish* Counsellor at Court, or any new Convert. What I spoke was about another Lady that belongs not to the Court, but like *Simpronia* in *Catalines* Conspiracy, does more Mischief than *Cethegus.*

In this time of Distress, I could humbly advise our Prince would take the same course that the Duke of *Savoy* did, to suffer neither Strangers nor Embassadors to stay above some few weeks in his Country; for all the Strangers and Embassadors here, have served the *Plot*, and Design against us; I am sure they have no eye to be for us.

But my Lords, what I rose up to speak, was more especially to my Lord of the *Earls Bench*, that spoke last, and sits behind me: Who, as he hath the greatest Influence in our present Councils, so he hath let fall to you the very Root of the matter, and the hinges upon which all turns; He tells you that the House of Commons have lately made offers to the King, and he wonders we do not expect the Kings Answer to them, before we enter into so hot and high Debates.

He tells you, if the King be assured of Supplies we cannot doubt of his Complyance in this and all we can ask; for otherwise the King should fall into that that is the worst condition of a Prince, to have his People have no confidence in him. My Lords, This is that I know they put the King upon, and this is that *we must be ruined by*, if we may not with *Freedom* and *Plainness* open our Case.

My Lords, 'Tis a very hard thing to say *that we cannot trust the King*; and that we have already been deceived so often, that we see plainly the apprehensions of *Discontent* in the People, is no Argument at Court. And though our Prince be in himself an Excellent Person, that the People have the greatest Inclinations imaginable to Love; yet we must say he is such an one, *as no Story affords us a parallel of:* How plain and how many are the proofs of the *Design to murther him? How little is he apprehensive of it?*

The Transactions between him and his Brother are Admirable, and Incomprehensible; His

His Brothers designs being early known, to aim at the Crown, before his Majesties *Restauration* to this Kingdom.

This Match with a *Portugal* Lady, not like to have Children, *Contrived by the Dukes Father-in-Law*; and no sooner effected but the Duke and his Party make Proclamation to the World, that we are like to have no Children, that he must be the certain Heir.

He takes his Seat in Parliament as Prince of *Wales*, His Guards about him; The Princes Lodgings at *Whitehall*, his Guards upon the same Floor, without any Interposition between him and the King; so that the King was in his Hands, and in his Power every Night: All Offices and Preferments being bestowed by him, *Not a Bishop made without him.*

This Prince changes his Religion to make himself a Party, and such a Party that his Brother must be sure *to dye* and be *made away*, to make room for Him; nothing could preserve him, but that which I hope he will never do, give greater earnest to that wicked Party than his Brother could; and after all, *this Plot* breaks out, plainly *headed by the Duke*, his Interest and his Design.

How the King hath behaved himself ever since the breaking out of it, the World knows; we have expected every hour that the Court should joyn with the Duke against us: And it is evident more hath been done to make the *Plot a Presbyterian Plot*, than to discover it.

The *Prorogations*, the *Dissolutions*, the Cutting *short* of *Parliaments*, not suffering them to *have time* or opportunity *to look into any thing*, hath shew'd what reason we have to have confidence in this *Court*. We are now come to a *Parliament* again, by what *Fate* or what *Council*, for my part I cannot *guess*; neither do I understand the *Riddle* of it.

The Duke is quitted and sent away; the House of Commons have brought up a Bill to disable him of the Crown; and I think they are so far *extreamly* in the *right*; but your Lordships are wiser than they, and have rejected it; yet you have thought fit, and the King himself hath made the *Proposition*, to make such *Expedients* as shall render him but a *Nominal Prince.*

In the mean while where's *this Duke*, that the King and both Houses have declared unanimously *thus dangerous?* Why he is in *Scotland raising of Forces* upon the *Terra firma*, that can enter dry foot upon us, without hazard of Winds or Seas, the very place he should be in to raise a party there, to be ready when from hence he shall have notice: So that this being the case, *where is the trust?* We all think the business is *so ripe*, that they have the *Garrisons*, the *Arms*, the *Amunition*, the Seas and Souldiery all in their *hands*; they want but one good *Summe of Money to set up*, and *Crown the Work*, and then they shall have *no more need* of the *People*; and I believe whether they are pleased or no will be no great trouble to them.

My Lords, I hear of a *Bargain* in the House of *Commons*, and an *Address* made to the *King* but this I know, and must *boldly say it* and *plainly*, that the Nation is *Betray'd* if upon any Terms we part *with our Money* till we are *sure the King is ours*; have what *Laws* you will, and what Conditions you will, they will be of *no use* but *wast Paper* before *Easter*, if the Court have *Money to set up for Popery and Arbitrary Designs* in the mean while.

On the other hand give me leave to tell you my Lords, the King hath no reason to distrust his People; no man can go home and say, that if the King *Comply* with his *People* they will *do nothing for him*, but rare all up from him; we want a *Government* and we want a *Prince* that we may *trust*, even with the *spending* of *half* our *Annual Revennues*, for some time, for the *Preservation* of these Nations.

The growing Greatness of the *French* can not be stopt with a little Expence, nor without a real and hearty *Union* of the King and his People. It was never known in *England* that our Princes wanted Supplies either for their Forreign designs, or for their Pleasures; nothing ever shut the *English Purses* but the fears of having their *Money* used against them.

The hour that the King shall *satisfie the People*, that what we give is not to make us *Slaves* and *Papists*, he may have what he will; and this your Lordships *know* and all mankind that know us: Therefore let me plainly tell your Lordships, the *Argument* that the present Ministers use, is *to Destroy the King* and not *Preserve* him: For if the King will first see what we will do for him, it is impossible if we are in our *Senses* we should *do* any thing.

But if he will first shew that he is *intirely ours*, that he *Weds* the *Interest* and the *Religion* of the *Nation*, 'tis impossible he should *want any thing* that we can *give.*

But I see how the Argument will be us'd: Sir, they will *do nothing* for you, what should you do with these men? But on the other hand I am *bold* to say.

Sir, You may have any thing of *this Parliament*; *put away these Men*, *change your Principles*, *change your Court*, *and be your self*; for the King himself may have any thing of us.

My Lords, if I have been too *plain*, I beg your Pardon; I thought it was the *Duty* of an *English Nobleman* at this time to speak *plain or never.*

I am sure I mean well: and if any man can answer or oppose Reason to what I say, I beg they would do it; for I do not desire or propose any Question.

I Beg this *Debate* may last for *some dayes*, and that we may go to the *bottom* of the *matter*, and see if these things are so or no, and what Cure there is of the Evil we are in; and then the Result of your Debates may produce some proper Question.

However, we know who *hears*, and I am *glad* of this, that your Lordships have dealt so *Honourably* and so *clearly* in the *Kings presence* and in the *Kings hearing*, that he cannot say he wants a *right State of things*; he hath it before him, and may take Councel as he thinks fit.

London, Printed for *F. S.* at the Elephant and Castle near the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhil*, 168